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TWELVE PAGES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1900.

THE GOLDEN CALF.

The spectacle of Bryan in "the enemy's country," surrounded by bitter foes and false or lukewarm Democrats, cool, erect, calm, confident and unfaltering, is one for the admiration and applause of gods and men. Honest, true and brave, he will not become the Aaron of his people and build an altar before the golden calf; but, rather, like Moses, he cries: "Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold."

But the Baltimore Sun mocks at Mr. Bryan, and says:

"Simple Mr. Bryan, one is rather tempted to exclaim, to suppose that Americans ever believed in the possibility of a double standard of value—as one would say, two yardsticks of unequal length, or two peck-measures of unequal capacity, to buy and sell by at the same time in the same market!"

For a hundred years our best and ablest men have believed in that so-called double standard, and during that period it has actually existed and still exists, whether it be really double, or not. And what difference does it make whether it be, or not, a double standard, so it be a fixed ratio between silver and gold of 16 to 1, or between gold and silver of 1 to 16? 'Tis the difference 'twixt tweedledum and tweedledee, if the coins of the two metals be equally legal-tender and receivable for all dues, public and private. Just so a yard-stick or a peck-measure may be of various metals, woods, or other material, as paper.

The Sun also says:

"The Chicago platform undoubtedly declared ostensibly in favor of bimetalism, while it really meant, if it meant anything, silver monometalism, which was the only possible result of the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1."

Manifestly our Baltimore contemporary mispronounces the Shibboleth of its new allies. It has not learned its lesson well, or it forgets it! Have we not had the gold standard—the single gold standard—ever since 1834 practically, despite the law declaring the silver dollar the standard and the fact that everybody recognized the double standard, or measure, of gold and silver? And why is it said that we have had the single gold standard of value in this country ever since 1834? FOR THE VERY REASON, WHICH THE SUN ALLEGES ESTABLISHES SILVER MONOMETALISM—"the free coinage of silver" (and gold) "at the ratio of 16 to 1."

It is said by the single gold men that the act of 1834 by altering the ratio from 15½ to 1 to 16 to 1 made the silver dollar so much more valuable in proportion to gold coin than the latter, AS THE CHEAPER MONEY, drove out the silver and became the standard of value in all our transactions;—and now being reminded of the truth, the Sun will not dare gainsay it. It is, however, a confession that the mere fact that because a metal is sixteen times more valuable in weight than another, provided the difference in value is made up or compensated by weight or quantity; and if a silver dollar at the ratio of 16 to 1 is more valuable than a gold dollar at the ratio of 1 to 16, why speak of it as "the cheaper money," or make lying references to the commodity value of silver, caused by the demonization of the metal, and not at all affecting

its value as legal-tender coin. In all Europe silver coin is still held at 15½ to 1, whereas we only claim it to be worth 16 to 1; and at the greater value of only 1 to 15½ France at this moment is meeting all obligations, public and private, in silver coin,—gold payment being suspended. Strange to say, too, after all this blather about gold and the death of silver through its own poverty, gold coin in Paris, though its payment is suspended by the Bank of France, is only 1-10 of one per cent. premium over silver coin! Money is money, if issued by a stable and solvent government, no matter what its material; but gold of an empire is no better than the gold of a beggar, if both have to be weighed and tested, because of their great value. In fact, tin tokens, or pasteboard tickets, issued by a reliable shopkeeper, are often more desirable, not only for convenience, but for fear of counterfeiters.

The golden calf is none the better because it is bred of the British bull;—rather the worse for that relation,—for we all know how it is likely to involve us in quarrels and difficulties with which we should have nothing to do, but in which we shall be used always for British advantage, with ever-growing danger that may give England a pretext for an advantage, which she will always be sure to take, and take safely with an Anglomaniac administration subservient to interests dependent on English gold.

DETECTIVE FITZPATRICK.

In the Corporation Court the other day the recognizance bond, as a witness, of one Fitzpatrick was declared forfeited. He was wanted as a witness in the prosecution of the cases looking to breaking up policy playing and gambling in the city.

Looking back over the files of the Virginian-Pilot, the work of Detective Fitzpatrick came to light as being in the employ of the Board of Police Commissioners.

At the time we commended most highly the enterprise and determination shown by the board in breaking up crime and policy playing in the city.

Just at this time, also, there were several arrests for Sunday violations, all of which were attributed to the same energy and service to the city.

We were somewhat surprised to find on Thursday that Fitzpatrick did not appear as a witness when wanted in the Corporation Court.

His bond, without surety, in the sum of \$50.00 was declared forfeited, but of course that will amount to nothing. This seems to have been the second time the case was called; Fitzpatrick not appearing.

We very much regret this occurrence. If Fitzpatrick was employed by the Board of Police Commissioners to work up the policy cases, that board deserves the commendation of the city; and the money, so spent, was in a good cause.

Why is it, however, that he cannot now be had as a witness? If he is a reliable detective he must be anxious to make good, in testimony before the court, such information as he found; and we do not believe the Police Board would have secured any other than a reliable detective.

It is to be hoped therefore that the work, commenced by the board, will not be allowed to wither and die. Fitzpatrick was gotten here once; he ought to be gotten here as easily again.

THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GLASSES NEEDED.

It is with a feeling of the most oppressive gratitude that we rest upon our profound faith in the fair dealing and honor of the State Executive Committee.

Their fair name, like a gentle zephyr, hushes Virginian and liberty-lovers into a peaceful repose, for their rule of "home and native heath" will be protected.

Of course, some ill-conditioned person will rise up and call it curse, because forsooth, it voted against Home Rule and the white people of Isle of Wight, Nansemond and Southampton.

This might ordinarily be justifiable, but not so with the case of this committee. They have a good excuse for voting against those good white Democrats, and we desire to make it known. They did not see that portion of the rules reading:

"But the respective districts shall manage their own district affairs."

We know the committee never saw these lines, because it never once quoted them in its report; nor did the lines ever appear, nor could they be seen until a Glass was used. It was a single Glass; in fact, it was a Carter Glass through which the committee, the Senate and the Democrats of Virginia saw that little clause which guaranteed to them Home Rule, but which a State Committee tried to take away.

It would be a serious matter to charge the Honorable State Committee with having seen and known of this clause, and in the face of it trying to take away from the people of the Thirty-second District their rights.

Indeed, it is such a serious matter that we cannot believe its members guilty, but insist upon the belief that they did not see the Home Rule clause. It took Carter Glass to find it. His keen and patriotic eye found it.

The Home Rule clause of the State Committee's rules is so small that it took a (Carter) Glass to find it.

THE NEW JERSEY WILDCATS.

The Times has not given much attention to this subject of late, but some time back it discussed it very freely. The text of our discussion was that whatever one man could properly do when acting alone, two men could do when acting in concert; and that whatever two men might do acting in concert, any number of men could do when acting together.

These have always seemed to the Times to be fundamental propositions, and propositions that were so fundamental that if there were any attempt made to infringe them the liberty of the citizen would be interfered with most unwarrantably and, indeed, his liberty would be so far taken away from him that he could no longer be said to be a freeman at all.—Richmond Times.

It has been a long time since the above propositions were enunciated seriously in this region, though in the first of the discussions of trusts and similar combines they were frequently and freely enunciated from the same quarter. It needs but a little examination to expose the utter fallacy of such pretensions. From the earliest days of the common law, any man could freely do what at once became a crime if done or attempted by a combination or conspiracy of two or more persons; and that is still the law, common or statute. In many things to this day, both civil and criminal.

But the above quoted paragraphs are intended to vindicate corporations, that are so different from natural persons, taken individually, that it has been said that they have no bodies to be kicked, nor souls to be damned. A man is responsible for his acts, but the members of a corporate body may be individually free from all personal liability, and answerable only as a part of the corporation. Man is personally mortal and limited in many particulars; but a corporation, with perpetual succession of stockholders, may be immortal and practically unlimited in various particulars. History tells us that most of the nations of Europe have been compelled at one time or another to expel or destroy civic, military and religious orders, or associations, that had grown so rich and powerful as to menace the safety of the State; and there is no civilized nation wherein the laws do not limit and regulate corporations or associations of all kinds.

The most of these laws are the teaching of dear and painful experience; and we are now being taught that even in this free country we must be vigilant and jealous to guard our liberties, our interests and our very industries from the encroachments of corporate or combined power and capital. The very existence of some aggregations of wealth and influence is dangerous and threatening, and they should not be allowed by a prudent people and government, no matter what their alleged purposes may be, or really are.

The liberty of the citizen often depends upon the restraint of the corporation; and the arrogant airs of superiority, if not of supremacy, taken even by the servants and petty officers of great corporations are everywhere so evident and offensive to the average man that he needs no argument to persuade or convince him that human liberty—ay, even human life—is unsafe, in the very degree that special privileges, or even common privileges (to which we are all accustomed) are granted corporations, trust and combines, without strict safeguards.

The idea that an artificial body, or person, created by law, has inherent rights, is preposterous, although, as we know, solemn tribunals have so held, without in the least lessening the preposterousness thereby,—increasing, or accentuating it, in fact. The corporation has no more than is given it by its creators, and if legislators (or Judges, under a general law) be duly careful in scrutinizing and guarding the act of corporation, there need be no lawful trust, or combine, that cannot be checked or destroyed the moment it becomes injurious or dangerous. None but fools hold that all corporations and combinations should be revoked and no more allowed. Some are absolutely necessary; many are useful; and none need be menacing if their legislative creators be wise and careful in properly limiting and checking them, with plenary powers of supervision and revocation reserved to the State. But the wild-cat brood of New Jersey is a vicious sort that should be exterminated.

LEGAL FICTIONS NO DEFENSE.

A legal fiction is no answer to why a public officer has not obeyed a mandatory law. Legal fictions are often very convenient and sometimes necessary, or very useful; but when invented, or used to cover an unlawful act, they are to be properly regarded as what they really are in fact, frauds and falsehoods, no matter whether their author be the criminal, or his attorney, or some collusive or obsequious court.

It is easily understood how it may be a very just and proper legal construction, in some cases, that money belonging to the U. S. Treasury is, as to these cases, "money in the Treasury";—as revenue collections and other dues to the government in transitu, or on necessary temporary deposit in a bank, or elsewhere, for safety, &c.; but there is a vast difference between all such cases and that of an officer, like Gage, being positively directed by law

to place such money in the Treasury, who shall deliberately disobey that plain order and lend the money to a person, or bank, on call or otherwise, in direct breach of the purpose of the law—to place the money, as soon as possible, in the actual Treasury, where it is to remain until appropriated by Congress.

This is what Gage has done, and no legal fiction, however ingenious, can conceal the crime, or justify it, nor do precedents excuse at all in so plain a breach of law.

If a sub-treasurer, or a Collector of Customs, or Internal Revenue, or any other agent of the Treasury, should do such tricks, and seek to defend them as Gage has done, the Secretary would teach him the difference in very short order,—just as Congress ought to teach Gage himself. So gross breaches of trust should not be tolerated for a moment, no matter what be the excuse.

CARTER GLASS AND THE PEOPLE

The Hon. Carter Glass, Senator for Lynchburg, is making a record for himself in the State Senate.

As a friend of Senator Martin, he voted for him and has everything to gain by deserting the people and advocating the machine.

Fearless and just, he has stepped in between the people and harm more than once. His voice is ever heard in their defense, and there is no scheme, however attractive it may be, that can allure him from the path of justice and honesty.

This is a bad recommendation to give a man who seeks the machine's support; but it is the reputation for the people.

Speaking in their behalf, we are happy in doing honor to the name of such as he, and feel that as long as he graces the legislative halls, the people's rights will be protected or else the efforts of their enemies will be exposed.

Senator Martin can control "some of the politicians all the time, all of the politicians most of the time, but he can't control all of the politicians all of the time."

Now we wonder how the State Committee accidentally (?) left out that clause about the "counties or districts managing their own affairs."

Justice Tomlin seems to be hitting the offenders pretty hard, pull or no pull.

Senator Martin should go down to Isle of Wight with a spade and resurrect some of his friends.

That Schwann, that Mr. McKinley has in the Philippines is not such a peaceful bird.

If you want to know the rate of interest in New York enquire of the British advance or failure in Africa.

And so the British hope to soon call on Lady Smith.

Now, we wonder what accident has happened to Detective Fitzpatrick.

There seems a lively probability of a funeral in Kentucky.

And Mr. Bryan will tell the Virginia Solons all about it.

What public matters the politicians don't control, the people can't use.

That "Jim Crow" car bill came with a leap and a bound.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

(Alexandria Gazette.)

Mr. Bourke Cochran, of New York, who abandoned his party to help his old enemy, Mr. Cleveland, has now deserted his late allies and come back to the Democrats, because they are opposed to imperialism and are in favor of home rule and sympathize with the Boers in their determined fight they are making for home rule and liberty. He is now in favor of Mr. Bryan, as are all other Democrats who desire the success of their party.

(Roanoke Times.)

The Pennsylvania State Democratic Executive Committee has established a precedent by endorsing Bryan for the Presidency. This is a compliment no other aspirant for the highest office in the land has ever had paid them.

(The Wilmington Star.)

General Buller told his army there would be "no turning back." A good many of them may go right on to Pretoria—escorted by Boer guards.

(The Alexandria Gazette.)

The cruel war in the Philippines is over, according to the War Department, but, all the same, General Otis makes a great ado when his forces occupy a town there that has been vacated by the native soldiers and the jingo press in this country makes a greater one when the news thereof reaches here.

(The Clifton Forge Review.)

It is a pity that there can be no political significance to the Kentucky shooting scrape of last week. There was not a single Democrat in the mix-up.

(The Charlotte Observer.)

Representative-elect Roberts of Utah, has been excluded from a seat in the House of Representatives, and the fact is creditable to that body, and a cause of thanksgiving for the whole country.

(The Staunton Spectator.)

The country is safe when it has taxed the people sufficiently to have money enough in the treasury to prevent a panic in Wall street.

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Finding myself SUFFERING VERY MUCH FROM CATARRH OF THE NOSE AND THROAT I consulted several of my friends in Portsmouth who had been CURED BY DR. FIREY, and, acting on their advice I placed myself under his treatment. I was so afflicted that MY NOSE WAS MOST ALWAYS CLOGGED UP, so that I could not breathe through it at all, and MY VOICE WAS VERY THICK. My throat was heavy, which compelled me to be HAWKING AND SPITTING, and always awoke with a dry, bitter taste in my throat and mouth. I WAS COMPELLED ALSO TO WEAR EYE GLASSES, as the disease affected my sight. NOW I HAVE NO NEED FOR GLASSES, AND CAN BREATHE AND SPEAK AS WELL AS ANYONE, and am much pleased with A CURE THAT HAS MADE ME FEEL LIKE ANOTHER PERSON. My appetite, which was poor, is now excellent, and I am proud to tell how much Dr. Firey has done for me.

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